

was the fact that since the estimates for the year were originally introduced aureomycin and terramycin had been made freely available under the National Health Service.

A prominent official of the Pharmaceutical Society, who is also a Member of Parliament, pointed out, however, that the percentage of prescriptions for proprietary drugs was only 29%, which is very much lower than in many other countries, including France and the United States. In the former, for instance, the proportion of proprietaries is in the region of 80%. The two official reasons for the rise in the cost of the pharmaceutical services were that the average cost per prescription had risen to 4s. 2½d., compared with 4s. 1d. last year and 2s. 9d. in 1948-49, and that the number of prescriptions is expected to be about 4½ million more than was anticipated.

#### HUMAN EXPERIMENTATION

The same debate included a lively discussion on the subject of human experimentation. This was based upon an article published in the *British Medical Journal* last December, which described an investigation into the relative value of two forms of oral penicillin in newborn infants in a maternity hospital in Bristol. The major criticism, which came from both sides of the House, was that the experiment had been carried out without the knowledge or permission of the parents. The Minister of Health freely admitted that such permission should have been obtained and expressed his regret, and that of those responsible for the investigation, that this had not been done.

He did not, however, accept the proposition that had been submitted during the debate that it would be wrong and unethical for any clinical investigation to be carried out which would not immediately benefit the person on whom it was carried out. He preferred the two propositions: "First there is bound to be clinical investigation and experiment. Indeed, if that was not so, our knowledge of surgery and medicine would not have changed over the centuries. Secondly, only the clinician in charge can say what is right and proper and what safeguards are needed in the action which he takes." Finally, he refused to accept the request of certain Members to issue a directive on the subject. "In my view that is a wrong conception of the duty of the Minister of Health. I do not think that it is my duty, indeed, I think that it would be wholly improper for me, to try to lay down what ethical and medical principle should govern the conduct of professional men in the work which they undertake in the hospitals . . . I am sure that it is best to leave the matter to the profession, and not to have a lay Minister of Health interfering in a matter that is very precious to those professionally concerned."

#### MORE AND BETTER HOSPITALS

Since the introduction of the National Health Service, capital expenditure on hospitals in England and Wales has never exceeded £9 million a year. When the war years are taken into consideration, this means that there has been no major development in the hospitals of the country since 1939. At long last the Minister of Health announced a plan for hospital development which, though considerable doubt exists as to its full implications, does suggest that within the next few years something will be done to modernize the hospital service. It is proposed in 1956-57 and 1957-58 to start new building projects in England and Wales to a total value of £7½ million and £10 million respectively. In addition, there will be a special allocation of money for a plant replacement and redeployment programme, for which £2 million will be available in 1956-57 and £4 million in 1957-58. A further £9 million will be available for capital expenditure on other works. In Scotland, the total provision for hospital buildings is to be increased from £1.9 million this year to £2.5 million in 1957-58.

#### MEDICAL MANPOWER

For some time concern has been expressed by the British Medical Association, and other interested bodies, as to the possibility of there being a surplus of doctors within the next decade or so. The Minister of Health has now appointed a committee to inquire into the number of doctors likely to be engaged in medical practice in the future, and the intake of medical students which will be needed. The precise terms of reference are: "To estimate on a long-term basis and with due regard to all relevant considerations, the number of medical practitioners likely to be engaged in all branches of the profession in the future, and the consequential intake of medical students required." The chairman is Mr. Henry Willink, Q.C., a former Minister of Health and now Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge.

London, March 1955.

WILLIAM A. R. THOMSON

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## OBITUARIES

DR. FRANK CECIL ANDERSON, 80, died at Ottawa on February 7 after a short illness. Dr. Anderson, who was born at Napanee, Ont., was a graduate of Queen's University. After graduating in arts he joined the faculty, and while teaching completed the work for a medical degree. From the University of Edinburgh he received the degree of Master of Surgery, specializing in eye, ear, nose and throat. On his return to Canada, however, he became a teacher of commercial subjects and taught in several secondary schools in Ottawa for the next 25 years. For a time after his retirement in 1940 he was chief medical officer for Glebe Collegiate Institute, Ottawa. He then established a practice in the Ottawa district in diseases of the eye.

DR. BEN BRACHMAN, head of the department of dermatology in the Medical Arts Clinic, Regina, died on February 1 after a short illness. Dr. Brachman, who was born in Russia, came to Canada in his early youth and settled in Ethelbert, Man. He graduated from Queen's University in arts in 1929 and in medicine in 1933. He went overseas in 1940 and was attached to the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada as medical officer. He was severely wounded in action during the Dieppe raid on August 19, 1942, and was mentioned in despatches. A few years ago he established a scholarship in Queen's University for children of Canadian soldiers who were killed or captured at Dieppe. He is survived by his widow, a daughter and a son.

DR. MICHAEL W. C. FEENEY, a staff doctor at the Westminster Hospital, London, Ont. since 1944, died at the hospital on February 13 in his 55th year. Dr. Feeney, who was born in Madoc, Ont., graduated from Queen's University in 1931, as a gold medallist. He practised medicine at Elgin, Ont., until 1940 when he joined the R.C.A.M.C. From 1940 to 1944 he served with the rank of captain in Canada, England, North Africa, and Italy. In World War I he served overseas as a private. Since his return to Canada in 1944 he had been on the staff of the Westminster Hospital. He is survived by his widow, three sons and four daughters.

DR. WILSON KENNEDY FENTON, 56, medical officer of health and coroner of Etobicoke Township, Ont., for the past 15 years, died on February 13 of

a heart attack. Dr. Fenton, who was born in Toronto, graduated in medicine from the University of Toronto in 1926. During World War I he served with the Second Division Canadian Engineers. At the time of his death, he was extending a project which he had begun earlier, a method of sterilizing public drinking fountains by ultraviolet rays. He is survived by his widow, three sons and a daughter.

DR. BERTRAM E. GOODWIN, 72, of Amherst, N.S., died on January 27 after an illness of several months. Dr. Goodwin was a native of Lorneville, N.S. After teaching school for a time, he decided on a medical career. After graduating from McGill University in 1906, he took postgraduate studies in London at the Royal Ophthalmic, Moorfields and Central London Eye Hospitals. On his return to Canada he began practice in Amherst as a general practitioner, but in more recent years had specialized in diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat. He was widely known to the medical profession of the Province and was regarded as one of the leaders in his specialty. He was a past president of the Cumberland Medical Society and the Nova Scotia Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology Association, and a member of the Nova Scotia Medical Society, the Canadian Medical Association, and the Canadian Ophthalmological and Canadian Laryngological Societies. Dr. Goodwin is survived by a brother, Dr. O. M. Goodwin, of North Battleford, Sask., and by a sister.

DR. JOSEPH RAOUL HURTUBISE, a member of the first medical staff of St. Joseph's Hospital, Sudbury, Ont., and a parliamentarian for more than a quarter of a century, died in Ottawa on January 31 after a long illness. He was 72. Dr. Hurtubise, who was born at Ste. Anne de Prescott, Ont., graduated in medicine from Queen's University, Kingston, after receiving an honour arts degree from Bourget College at Rigaud, Que. He went to the Sudbury district in 1906 and set up practice in Verner, moving to Sudbury in 1910. From 1910 to 1930 he was a lecturer in anatomy in the St. Elizabeth Nursing School which he with three other doctors organized in St. Joseph's Hospital. He served as president of the St. Joseph's Hospital medical staff from 1914 to 1916 and from 1928 to 1930. Dr. Hurtubise entered the House of Commons in the 1930 general election, as a Liberal candidate, and was re-elected in 1940 and 1945. In the latter year he was named to the Senate. He was active in French affairs in the Sudbury community and was one of the founders of the Sudbury District and Northern Ontario Historical Society, which he served as president for several years.

DR. GEORGE L. HUSBAND, one of Hamilton's senior medical practitioners, died on February 4 in his 80th year. He was a descendant of one of the district's original families of United Empire Loyalist settlers. He attended Upper Canada College, Toronto, and the University of Toronto before going to the University of Pennsylvania and the Hahnemann Homœopathic College, Philadelphia. From 1896 to 1906 he practised medicine in Philadelphia and was a member of the staff of Penn University. Disabled in a railroad accident in 1906, he was a convalescent until 1910, the year in which he began his practice in Hamilton. Dr. Husband, who specialized in homœopathic medicine, was the son of the first homœopathic doctor in Hamilton and was himself one of the few such practising physicians in Canada. He is survived by a granddaughter.

DR. SOLOMON KOBRINSKY, 59, a specialist in obstetrics and gynaecology, died in Winnipeg on January 28. Born in Odessa, Russia, he moved to Winnipeg in 1908 and nine years later graduated from Manitoba Medical College. He practised at McGregor, Man., for

three years before going to Winnipeg. There he became lecturer in his chosen field at the University of Manitoba and was chief of staff in obstetrics and gynaecology at Grace Hospital. He taught many classes of medical students and nurses at St. Boniface Hospital. In 1951 he was honoured with life membership in the Winnipeg Medical Society. He is survived by his widow, a son, Dr. Sam Kobrinsky, and three daughters.

DR. CHRISTINE BENDA LASALLE, a general practitioner, died in a private clinic in Vienna, Austria, on December 23, 1954, at the age of 44 years. Born in Brunn, Czechoslovakia, she studied in the U.S.A. and in Belgium, and graduated from Brussels University Medical School in 1937. She practised in Newfoundland and during World War II she served with the R.C.A.M.C., being in charge of the Harrison Hot Springs Convalescent Hospital. Dr. LaSalle also served as examining medical officer with the Canadian Immigration Medical Service, overseas. She was a member of the Canadian Medical Association. She is survived by her husband, Dr. M. J. M. LaSalle, of Linz, Austria.

DR. JOHN C. LINDSAY, a practising physician in London, Ont., since 1906, formerly assistant professor of pædiatrics at the University of Western Ontario, died on February 18 at his home in London. He was in his 82nd year. Dr. Lindsay was a native of Goderich Township, Ont. He taught school at Auburn, Ont., for some years, before entering medicine at the University of Toronto, from which he graduated in 1898. He was medical examiner for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, London, for more than forty years, and served also for a number of years as physician with the Canadian Pacific Railways and as attending physician at the University of Western Ontario and Parkwood Hospital. He was a Fellow of the American College of Physicians. Dr. Lindsay is survived by a son and a daughter.

DR. HENRY GEORGE PICKARD, 85, died at his home in Winnipeg on January 28. He was born at Glamis, Ont., and graduated from Trinity Medical College, Toronto. From 1905 to 1910 he practised at Minto, Man., and for the next seven years was health officer for Brandon. From 1917 until his retirement in 1946 he practised at Oxbow, Sask. Surviving him are his widow and four sons, two of whom are doctors—Dr. Edgar Pickard, Winnipeg, and Dr. Harry Pickard, Oxbow.

DR. WILLIAM B. ROBERTS, 76, died at his home in St. John's, Nfld., on January 23. Dr. Roberts was born at Brigus in 1879. After graduation from the United Church Academy he taught school in a number of communities before going to the University of Toronto to study medicine. After his graduation he returned to Newfoundland and practised at Bonne Bay, Greenspond and St. John's. Later he went to Edinburgh University for a postgraduate course in surgery. In 1913 he was made a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons and a Member of the Royal College of Physicians. On his return to St. John's, Dr. Roberts engaged in private practice until his appointment as staff surgeon at the General Hospital. When the move to construct the Grace Hospital was taken in 1925, Dr. Roberts interested himself in the project and made a large contribution towards the establishment of that institution as it is known today. In later years he became medical superintendent, a position he held until his retirement. In recognition of his outstanding contribution to medicine in Newfoundland, Dr. Roberts was honoured by King George VI in 1949, when he was named a C.B.E. He was also honoured by the Canadian Medical Association in being appointed a senior member of the organization. Dr. Roberts is survived by a daughter and two sons, one of whom, Dr. James Roberts, lives in St. John's.